

denied the existence of any contingent linkage between the Hudson outcome and the contributions by tribes that opposed the application.⁵⁶⁷

Tribal witnesses also denied such a connection. They asserted that their interest in supporting the DNC, the President's Re-election Campaign⁵⁶⁸ and other national Democratic organizations during 1995 related to broad Indian political interests, including a variety of specific pending bills and BIA issues, such as those seeking to tax or limit Indian gaming, which the tribal representatives reviewed with Fowler in the September and October 1995 meetings. Records of congressional activity support this assertion. During the seven months that the Hudson application was under review at Interior in Washington, eight proposals were introduced in Congress relating to Indian gaming.⁵⁶⁹ There also were a variety of non-gaming issues of

⁵⁶⁷Kitto supplied his tribal clients a Sept. 17, 1995, memo concerning political contributions and advising them of legal parameters governing such contributions. In the memo, he also conveyed his views concerning the direct and positive impact such contributions had on government decision-making. He told them "It is essential that Washington's decision makers know who you are. How heavily you weigh in politically, will directly effect how they support your issues."

A further example of Kitto's contributions philosophy was provided by an Oct. 29, 1996, letter he and O'Connor sent to tribal leaders concerning a Nov. 1 fund-raiser for congressional candidate Mary Rieder at O'Connor's Minneapolis home. The event featured as guest of honor Secretary Babbitt. The letter described the event as a small function providing the Indians "an opportunity to discuss Tribal issues with Secretary Babbitt."

⁵⁶⁸In the summer of 1995, Gover also was directly soliciting Indian tribes for contributions to the Re-election Campaign, with a stated goal of raising \$1,000 each from 100 tribes. Gover advised tribal leaders that Indians could not afford to see Republicans take back both Congress and the White House, and called the stakes, "exceedingly high in 1996." Letter from Kevin Gover to JoAnn Jones, Aug. 14, 1995.

⁵⁶⁹See H. R. 140, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. § 2 (1995); H. R. 462, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995); H. R. 497, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. § 4(a)(2)(H) (1995); S. 487, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995); H. R. 1364, 104th Cong. 1st Sess. § 1 (1995); H. R. 1512, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995); H. R. 1578, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995); H. R. 952, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995).